

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

MANURE TRANSFER

(No.)
CODE 634

DEFINITION

A manure conveyance system using structures, conduits (including recycle lines), or equipment (agitators, manure spreaders, loaders, scrapers, gutter cleaners, conveyors, etc.).

PURPOSE

To transfer animal manure (bedding material, spilled feed, process and wash water, and other residues associated with animal production may be included) through a hopper or reception pit, a pump (if applicable), a conduit, and/or equipment to;

- a manure storage/treatment facility,
- a loading area, and
- to agricultural land for final utilization. This includes application of manure to the utilization area.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

The manure transfer component is a part of a planned agricultural manure management system.

Where manure is generated by livestock production or processing; and a conveyance system is necessary to transfer manure from the source to a storage/treatment facility and/or a

loading area, and/or from storage/treatment to an area for utilization.

CRITERIA

Criteria for all purposes

Manure transfer components shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations.

Structures - All structures, including those which provide a work area around pumps, will be designed to withstand the anticipated static and dynamic loading. The structure shall withstand earth and hydrostatic loading in accordance with Practice Standard 313, Waste Storage Facility.

Reception pits shall be sized to contain a minimum of one full day's manure production.

Openings to structures to receive manure from alley scrape collection shall be a minimum of 9 square feet with one dimension no smaller than 4 feet. The opening shall be equipped with a grate designed to support the anticipated loads.

When curbs are needed in conjunction with structures, they shall be

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constructed of either concrete or appropriate wood. Curbs shall be of sufficient height to insure total manure flow into the structure and be adequately anchored.

Pipelines - Design of pipelines shall be in accordance with Practice Standard 430, Irrigation Water Conveyance. The minimum pipeline capacity from collection facilities to storage/treatment facilities shall be the maximum flow anticipated on a daily basis. The minimum pipeline capacity from storage/treatment facilities to utilization areas shall insure the storage/treatment facilities can be emptied within the time limits stated in the management plan for manure utilization. Except for recycle flushing systems, pipelines shall be designed to have a minimum of 2 feet per second and a maximum of 6 feet per second velocity except where ruminant manure is transferred in a gravity system; in which case velocities can be reduced if a minimum of 5 feet of head is provided on the pipe system.

Clean-out access shall be provided for gravity pipelines at a maximum interval of 200 feet for lines carrying non-bedded manure. For pipelines carrying bedded manure the maximum interval shall be 150 feet. Gravity pipelines shall not have horizontal curves or bends except minor deflections (less than 10 degrees) in the pipe joints unless special design considerations are used.

Other Conduits - Concrete lined ditches shall be designed in accordance with Practice Standard 428A, Irrigation Water Conveyance-Non-reinforced Concrete Ditch and Canal Lining. A minimum design

velocity of 1.5 feet per second shall be used.

Pumps - Pumps installed for manure transfer shall meet the requirements of Practice Standard 533, Pumping Plant for Water Control. Pumps shall be sized to transfer manure at required system head and volume. Type of pump shall be based on the consistency of manure. Consideration for pump installations shall be based on manufacturer's recommendations.

Safety - The system design shall consider the safety of humans and animals during construction and operation.

Open structures shall be provided with covers or barriers such as gates, fences, etc. Ventilation and warning signs shall be provided for manure transfer systems as necessary to warn of the danger of entry and to reduce the risk of explosion, poisoning, or asphyxiation.

Pipelines from enclosed buildings shall be provided with a water-sealed trap and vent or similar devices where necessary to control gas entry into buildings.

Gravity discharge pipes used for emptying a storage/treatment facility shall have a minimum of two gates or valves, one of which shall be manually operated. Installation of these pipes is critical. Design and installation shall be in accordance with Practice Standard 359, Waste Treatment Lagoon, or Practice Standard 313, Waste Storage Facility.

Tractors or other vehicles used to tow manure spreaders or tank wagons

shall be sized to reduce the danger of roll-over.

Additional criteria in support of the purpose of land application

Manure shall be applied to the utilization area in amounts and at a time consistent with the manure management plan and Practice Standard 633, Waste Utilization or Practice Standard 590, Nutrient Management.

Sprinklers or sprinkler systems shall be designed in accordance with Practice Standard 442, Irrigation System, Sprinkler. Sprinkler system design capacity shall be adequate to apply the required volume of manure at a rate and uniformity that shall prevent runoff. Nozzle size shall be appropriate for the consistency of the manure applied. Sprinkler applied manure contaminated water, shall normally contain less than two percent solids unless provisions are made for straining, filtering or chopping before application. Sprinkler systems shall be equipped with automatic pressure loss shut off valves in case of pipe breaks or joint failure.

Manure spreaders and/or tank wagons shall have adequate capacity to insure the emptying of storage/treatment facilities within appropriate time periods as stated in the system operation and maintenance plan.

Gated pipe and other appurtenances used in conjunction with gravity application shall be designed to insure uniform application amounts.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Utilization of topography to generate head to reduce pumping requirements;
- Economics (including design life), overall manure management system plans, and health and safety factors;
- Possible contamination of ground water, surface water, and domestic water systems;
- Management capabilities of the operator and availability of labor;
- Loading and unloading of equipment in the vicinity of the manure transfer components;
- Subsurface conditions, i.e., depth to bedrock, water table, etc.;
- When applicable, compatibility to joint use of manure transfer with irrigation system design requirements;
- System for flushing pipelines with clean water;
- Provisions for cleaning out solids deposition in ditches;
- Pipe pressure rating adjustments required based on manure temperature.
- Corrosion resistance and water tightness in the selection of pipe material and joints;

- Need for appropriate check valves, anti-siphon protection and open air breaks;
- Sanitation needs of all conveyance equipment that leaves the farm in order to prevent the spread of disease;
- Potential for salt (struvite) deposits in smaller diameter pipe.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for installing manure transfer systems shall be in accordance with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation and maintenance shall be in accordance with the requirements specified in the overall operation and maintenance plan required by Practice Standard 312, Waste Management System.